

My Life with the Wave

February / March
2024
Tour Information
Pack



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

INTERPLAY

NATIONAL SENSORY THEATRE

MY LIFE WITH THE WAVE TOURING FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024

Interplay Theatre's sensory immersive production inspired by *My Life with the Wave*, the poem by Mexican Poet Laureate Octavio Paz is available to tour to arts centres, theatres and galleries in early 2024. This follows the successful tour to SEN schools, performing to young people with complex needs (Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities) in spring 2022.

My Life with the Wave is staged in our unique dome structure creating a multi-sensory installation that combines projection, immersive environments, and digitally captured performances with dance and storytelling.

Interplay Theatre wishes to work in partnership with venues to enable young people with complex needs to experience our work with their families and carers. *My Life with the Wave* will also appeal to audiences who prefer relaxed performances. The production will contribute to venues audience development strategy for young people.

We plan to base ourselves in an area for a week, performing for 2 days at the "host" venue and for 3 days in schools, this will enable us to support venues in developing their relationships with SEN schools in their area.

My Life with the Wave can be performed up to 3 times a day for an audience of 25 for each performance.

The tour of *My Life with the Wave* will be supported by material available on-line, enabling audiences to be introduced to the work prior to attending a performance and supporting parents, carers and teachers following the performance.

As the leaders in sensory theatre in the UK, Interplay will offer, as part of the weeks package, a masterclass in sensory theatre techniques and working with young people with complex needs. This will be designed for emerging artists. We will support venues in developing relationships with the schools in which we perform during the week.

My Life with the Wave has a running time of 45 minutes and we perform 3 shows a day.



INTERPLAY THEATRE

Interplay Theatre creates challenging and difficult theatre for audiences with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Our productions contain themes that resonate in today's world with characters that face challenges both physical and emotional. The productions push the boundaries of how we communicate with children who are 'far away', locked inside themselves due to their disabilities and challenge preconceptions about the emotional literacy of PMLD children by not being afraid to present situations which are a part of life, be they love, loss or death.

Previous productions include the uplifting and harrowing story of Frida Kahlo told through the lens of *The Day of the Dead* in an inflatable dome. The story of *Alcyone and Cyex* had the audience gathered around a glass tank full of water with actors submerged and beckoning. *'Paint'* inspired by Jackson Pollock where young people with profound and multiple disabilities left a trace in a space, painting to music guided by Muses. In *Tarzanne*, set inside its own purpose-built dome, a team of actor musicians sensitively told the story of a lost child raised by chimpanzees.

Interplay Theatre develops its work for young people with PMLD through residencies in SEN schools.

We include our audience by encouraging proximity to action, promoting connection to character and performer through environment, scenic and digital, through music and the human touch. We create a special theatre for everybody



"The feedback from staff on My Life with the Wave is that they were 'spellbound'. I think many were particularly engaged because it was designed to meet the senses, and so was artistically of merit, but accessible too."

"What a fantastic sensory filled performance of Tarzanne. Our students loved it!! Great team of performers who worked so well with our learners. I would highly recommend."

Luke Wellington - National Star SEN College

"I thought the story was pitched beautifully to a very rapt audience of young people who were fascinated, curious and a little bit wary all at once. I came away wanting everyone else to be able to experience it which is a great feeling, and doesn't happen a lot of the time."

Leeds Playhouse





Creative Team

Writer and Director – Steve Byrne Steve has been Artistic Director of Interplay Theatre for over 20 years. During this time he has developed the company's approach to sensory theatre and created many acclaimed productions including *Paint* inspired by the work of Jackson Pollock and *Frida* inspired by the life of Frida Kahlo.

Original Soundtrack – Angela Chan Angela Chan is a Leeds based composer and performer. She previously collaborated with Interplay on *Paint*. Angela is currently touring with Placebo on keyboard and violin. Angela is a member of the Mercury Prize shortlisted band *Lanterns on the Lake*, cinematic folk sextet *Tomorrow We Shall* and the electro-psych rock collective *Hallo Cosmos*

Octavio Paz - (March 31, 1914 – April 19, 1998) was a Mexican poet and diplomat. For his body of work, he was awarded the 1977 Jerusalem Prize, the 1981 Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the 1982 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and the 1990 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Technical Specification

My Life with the Wave is performed within an inflatable dome structure. This dome has an eight meter diameter is 3.8m high and holds a capacity audience of 25.

The team will need access to 2x 13A power points.

All equipment will fit through a standard door.

Get in time is 2 hours.

Get out time is 1.5 hours.

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